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Intelligence Barrier

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(Wall Street Journal)

There's something farcical, all right about Senator Frank Church's non-communication with Central Intelligence Agency Director John McCone.

Having some information to impart, the senator put it into a personal letter to Mr. McCone. Because CIA offices aren't the easiest places in the world to get into, Mr. Church's secretary phoned in advance to say a Senate page was on his way with the letter.

Pity the poor page. Far from reaching Mr. McCone's office, he got himself in for an extensive grilling by CIA security police. Three and a half hours later he was back in Mr. Church's office with letter, undelivered; the CIA guards wouldn't even accept it. The senator was a little piqued.

He should take it philosophically though. His letter is not the first intelligence that ever failed to penetrate a government agency.

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